

CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
together with the Report of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1947

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Members of the Public Health Committee

Chairman: MR. COUNCILLOR A. HAMPTON

Vice-Chairman: MRS. COUNCILLOR M. HOTCHKISS

MR. COUNCILLOR N. I. HOLLOWOOD

MR. COUNCILLOR J. JAMES

MRS. COUNCILLOR E. JONES

MRS. COUNCILLOR M. L. ROWLEY

MR. COUNCILLOR T. WHITEHOUSE

MR. COUNCILLOR W. WRIGHT

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee

Chairman: MRS. COUNCILLOR M. HOTCHKISS

Vice-Chairman: MRS. COUNCILLOR E. JONES

All the members of the Public Health Committee

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health :

W. F. GAPPER, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(resigned March, 1947)

C. T. BAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., M.D., D.P.H.
(appointed June, 1947)

Assistant Medical Officer :

P. S. WARREN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(resigned January, 1947)

J. DUIGNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(appointed February, 1947)

Dental Surgeon : N. H. SMITH, L.D.S.

Dental Attendant : MRS. N. T. BUTLER.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Shops Act Inspector : FRED TURNER,
C.R.S.I., Certificate of Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector : JOSEPH BALL, C.R.S.I.

Health Visitors

MRS. D. ROBINSON, C.M.B., State Registered Nurse.

MRS. S. LEACH, S.R.N.

MRS. M. E. VAUGHAN, S.R.N.

Part-Time Officers

Oculist : G. F. HAYCRAFT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Orthopaedic Surgeon : ERNEST A. FREEMAN, F.R.C.S., M.B., B.S.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon : W. L. THOMAS, F.R.C.S., D.L.O.

Orthopaedic Masseuse : MISS F. M. BARNES, C.S.M.M.G.

DR. MARGARET BAMBER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Cannock
Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1947. The work up to July, 1947, is that of my predecessor.

This report is concerned with the Public Health Services and Maternity and Child Welfare Services, the School Health Service of the area being the responsibility of the Staffordshire County Council.

Consideration has been given to the setting up of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres at Bridgtown, Wimblebury and Rawnsley, with the idea of bringing the facilities of the services to the mothers and young children of those areas. At present mothers in those areas have to travel appreciable distances to obtain the benefit of clinic services at Cannock, Hednesford and Chadsmoor. The improvement of facilities at existing clinic centres, such as the provision of pram shelters, is under consideration.

The various sections of the report are self explanatory.

I beg to express my sincere thanks in the first place to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committees, and to the Chairman and Members of the Cannock Urban District Council, for the support and encouragement I have received in the various branches of duties and in the consideration of suggested improvements.

My thanks are also due to the Staff of the Public Health Department for their support during the year.

Particularly would I mention the efficiency of the Sanitary Department working under its very capable Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. Turner, who has been well and truly assisted by his deputy, Mr. Ball. This Department has carried on whilst its establishment number of qualified Officers was below normal and has

met the demands exceptionally well. It has been this shortage of Officers which has prevented this section of the Public Health Department carrying out further contemplated work, in particular an up-to-date survey of sanitary conditions especially with regard to housing in the area.

To Mr. Norman Smith, Dental Surgeon, I say "thank you" for his keen co-operation in particular with myself in working together as a medical—dental team in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Service.

Apart from their routine duties at clinics and in the home, the Nurses of the Department have shown keen interest and given their support to new developments in their sphere. I thank them for their co-operation.

To my colleagues in other Departments, the Clerk, the Treasurer, the Surveyor, the Architect, and the Electricity Manager, I say "thank you" for the great help and advice and kind treatment I have received at their hands on the many occasions when I have sought assistance from these departments.

Lastly, I wish to sincerely thank the visiting consulting Surgeons, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Haycraft, Mr. Freeman and Mr. Heath, for the very able services which each one has rendered.

I am, Your obedient servant,

C. T. BAYNES,

Medical Officer of Health
(appointed 16th June, 1947)

SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Area of the district (excluding area covered by water)	...	...	...	...	acres	8,155
Total Population at all ages at 1931 Census	...					35,300
Registrar-General's estimate of population to middle of the year	...	...	...	...		39,730
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1948	...	...	...	...	£	157,701
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...		£623
Nett Births	...	...	...	...		941
Birth Rate (live and still-births) per 1,000 of estimated population	...	...	...	...		23.69
Nett Deaths allocated to the district—						
Under one year of age	...	...	...	...		46
At all ages	...	...	...	...		467
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	...					50.05
Death Rates (at all ages)	...	...	...	...		11.75
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books) at end of year	...	...	...	...		9,693
Amount Paid in Poor Law Relief—						
Cannock District	...	...	...	...	£	4,416 17 11
Hednesford District	...	...	...	...	£	4,371 7 3

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Unemployment figures for the year were as follows:—

Date	MALES				FEMALES				Total
	Age Groups	21-64	18-20	16-17	14-15	21-59	18-20	16-17	14-15
17. 3. 47.	...	...	505	...	...	...	160	...	665
16. 6. 47.	98	2	2	2	31	2	2	1	140
15. 9. 47.	83	...	1	2	30	...	6	1	123
8. 12. 47.	72	3	1	...	19	1	2	1	99

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

The natural increase of population shown as excess of births over deaths is 409. The Registrar-General's estimate of population for the middle of the year is more by 580 than that of the previous year.

		Total	M	F
Live Births, legitimate	...	893	458	435
Live Births, illegitimate	...	26	14	12
Still Births, legitimate	...	22	13	9
Still Births, illegitimate	...	—	—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (live and still births)	...	...	...	...	23.69
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (live births)					22.87
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales (live births)					20.5
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales (still births)					0.50
Firth Rate per 1,000 resident population (still births)	...				0.55

		Total	M	F
Total Deaths	...	467	247	220
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	11.75
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	12.0

Area comparability factors have been suspended for the time being.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

	Deaths	Cannock	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births)	Eng. & Wales
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	0.16
Others	—	—	—	0.85
Total	—	—	—	1.01

INFANT MORTALITY

	Actual Deaths	Cannock Rate	England & Wales Rate
Deaths under one year of age:—			
All infants per 1000 live births	46	50.05	41
Legitimate infants per 1,000			
legitimate live births ...	42	47.14	—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000			
illegitimate live births ...	4	160.9	—

DEATHS AT ALL AGES

			Deaths	Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	Eng. & Wales
				Cannock	
Cancer	...	...	61	1.53	—
Measles	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.01
Whooping Cough	...	...	1	0.02	0.02
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.01
Influenza	...	...	3	0.07	0.09
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) per 1,000 live births			3	0.08	5.8

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

There were no changes in the Health Services, which functioned as in the past years.

WORK OF HEALTH VISITORS

Ante-Natal Visits :—

Primary	...	...	...	...	26
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	13
Primary visits to infants	...	...	...	...	901
Re-visits to infants	...	...	...	...	1,948

Re-visits to infants according to age :—

Under one year	...	...	...	...	1,047
One to two years	...	...	...	...	672
Two to three years	...	...	...	631	
Three to four years	...	...	...	562	
Four to five years	...	...	...	568	
				—	1,761

Ophthalmia :—

Primary	...	...	...	...	3
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	2
Special visits	...	...	...	...	88

WELFARE CENTRES

Centre	Sessions held	Primary Attendances of Infants		Total Attendances	
		Under 1 year	1-5 years	Under 1 year	1-5 years
Cannock	49	173	12	2,169	426
Hednesford	51	181	10	2,455	312
Chadsmoor	51	199	8	2,630	325
Heath Hayes	25	80	3	745	161
Totals	176	633	33	7,999	1,224

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Three Ante-Natal Clinics are now held—one at Hednesford every Thursday morning, one at Cannock every Tuesday morning, and one at Chadsmoor every Friday morning.

	Hednesford	Chadsmoor	Cannock	Total
Primary Attendances ...	222	171	164	557
Re-attendances ...	887	809	756	2,623
Post-Natal	—	3	9	12
Total Attendances ...	1,109	980	920	3,009
No. of Sessions	51	41	40	132
Average No. per Session	22	23.90	23	22.8
No. of Cases referred to Consultant	17	9	18	44
No. of Ante-Natal cases referred to Consultant by Private Practitioners	14	—	9	23
Patients showing abnormalities	15	26	13	54

The Dentist holds one special session per week for expectant and nursing mothers, on Tuesday afternoons.

The Dentist reports :—

55 new patients were seen at the special clinic for mothers. 180 total visits were made, of which 42 were purely for examination and advice.

TREATMENT GIVEN

Extractions	...	...	...	...	...	129
General Anaesthetics given	...	...	...	...	—
Scaling	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sundry Operations	...	...	...	...	...	14
Patients fitted with dentures	...	...	...	...	...	14
Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	—
Visits for construction of Dentures and Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	78

Pre-school children referred to the Dentist by Medical Officers and Health Visitors are examined and treated if necessary, at sessions held by him on Saturday mornings.

He reports :—

12 pre-school children attended, when the following work was carried out :—

Extractions	...	...	...	...	...	6
General Anaesthetics	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other operations	...	...	...	...	...	20
Advice to parents	...	...	...	...	...	—

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION

Five children were on the register at the end of the year. A total of 43 visits were made. Two new cases were admitted to the register. No adverse reports were received on any of the children or the homes visited.

BOARDED-OUT CHILDREN

Thirteen visits were paid to children at the request of the Public Assistance Authority, and 44 for the Education Authority.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Four cases were notified; one case was removed to hospital and recovered satisfactorily.

All cases needing institutional treatment are admitted to the Women's Hospital, Wolverhampton.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no fatal cases, with a maternal mortality of 0.00 compared with 1.17 for England and Wales.

INFANT MORTALITY

The main causes of death of children under one year of age were: Premature birth, 7; Congenital malformations and birth injuries, 17; Pneumonia, 12; Gastro Enteritis, 3; Bronchitis, 2; Asphyxia, 2; Whooping Cough, 1; Tubercular Meningitis, 1; Intestinal obstruction, 1.

The Birth Rates, Infant Mortality Rates (I.M.R.) and Maternal Mortality Rates (M.M.R.) for the past ten years were as follows:—

Year	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Birth Rates	18.02	16.6	18.4	19.3	21.44	21.15	21.38	20.55	21.72	23.69
I.M. Rates	58.9	63.5	65.9	75.4	52.0	44.27	54.23	37.91	61.86	50.05
M.M. Rates	4.3	3.0	2.16	1.27	8.75	1.27	6.14	2.61	2.4	0.00

PREMATURE CHILDREN

From the records kept of all children whose birth weight is $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds or under, there were 46 premature babies born in the area, of which 44 were born at home, two in nursing homes. One of these premature babies died within the first twenty-four hours, eight died within the first month, while 37 survived after the first month.

Arrangements have been made with the Walsall authority for admitting premature children, if necessary, to their hospital.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

In conjunction with other authorities, arrangements have been made with the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare to deal with illegitimate children and their mothers. From a report received from the Association for the year ending 31st March, 1948, five cases in which illegitimate births occurred during 1947 have been dealt with. Two girls were admitted to Diocesan Homes and responded very satisfactorily to the help given them. Two girls went to hospital for their confinements; one remained in her own home. 53 visits have been paid in connection with these five cases. The babies have been placed as follows: With mother, 2; adoptions, 2; with mother in situation, 1.

Year	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Illeg. Births	14	18	30	26	29	36	35	53	26	26

OPHTHALMIA NEONARTORUM

Four cases were notified, one of whom was admitted to hospital and the others treated at home. All cases recovered without any damage to their eyes.

TREATMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

186 children were referred to special clinics and attended as follows : Ophthalmic, 33; Orthopaedic, 123; Ear, Nose and Throat, 18, including two for operation; Dental, 12. The orthopaedic cases included those sent for actinotherapy.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES

The three Nurseries are transferred to the County Education Authority.

SECTION C—Infectious Diseases

DIPHTHERIA

Two cases were notified, compared with 18 in the previous year and 20 in 1945.

Two cases of clinical diphtheria were removed to hospital.

During the year 372 children under five and 70 children between five and fifteen were immunised.

SCARLET FEVER

Forty-five cases were notified, compared with 60 in the previous year. 26 were removed to hospital, and there was one fatal case.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS

Four cases were notified; all were removed to hospital. There were no fatal cases.

POLIOMYELITIS

Three cases were notified; two were removed to hospital. There were no fatal cases.

ENTERIC FEVER

No cases of enteric fever were notified.

PNEUMONIA

Nine cases of primary pneumonia were notified. There were 36 deaths from all types of pneumonia.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

Measles were prevalent in the early part of the year. 367 cases of Measles were notified, with no fatal cases.

There were 102 cases of Whooping Cough, with one fatal case.

CANCER

There were 61 deaths from Cancer, three more than in the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES NOTIFIED				Total	DEATHS				Total		
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory			Respiratory	Non- Respiratory					
	M	F	M	F			M	F				
0—1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
1—5	1	2	1	1	5	...	...	1	1	2
5—15	1	2	1	...	4	...	...	...	1	1
15—25	3	5	...	1	9	1	1	...	1	3		
25—35	6	4	1	...	11	1	5	...	...	6
35—45	2	1	1	...	4	1	...	...	...	1
45—55	2	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	2
55—65	2	1	...	...	3	2	1	...	...	3
65 & up	1	2	...	...	3	1	1	...	...	2
Total	18	17	4	2	41	8	8	2	3	21		

There were 16 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, three more than in the previous year, and five from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, an increase of three over the previous year. Four more male pulmonary and six more females were notified than in the previous year, while there were two more male and one less female non-pulmonary cases.

The Health Visitors paid 41 primary and 260 re-visits.

Notices of admission to Institutions were received as follows :

Wordsley Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	4
Himley Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	4
Prestwood Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	6
Groundslow Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	3
Newcastle Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	...	1
Cannock Institution	...	...	...	...	1
Standon Hall Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	1
Stafford Institution	...	...	...	...	1

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or the Public Health Act, 1936.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1947

			Males	Females
1.	Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever	...	—	—
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	—	1
4.	Whooping Cough	...	1	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	8	8
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	2	3
8.	Syphilitic	...	1	—
9.	Influenza	...	1	2
10.	Measles	...	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
12.	Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph (M) Uterus (F)	...	3	6
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	9	5
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	—	2
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	19	17
17.	Diabetes	...	1	4
18.	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	16	26
19.	Heart Disease	...	44	46
20.	Other disease of Circ. System	...	8	13
21.	Bronchitis	...	19	10
22.	Pneumonia	...	25	11
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	1	5
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	4	2
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	1	2
26.	Appendicitis	...	2	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	5	6
28.	Nephritis	...	7	10
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abort. Sepsis	...	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	—	—
31.	Premature Births	...	4	3
32.	Congenital Malformation, birth inj., infant dis.	...	11	6
33.	Suicide	...	4	—
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	4	2
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	14	4
36.	All other causes	...	33	25
	Totals	...	247	220

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

*To the Chairman and Members of the Cannock Urban
District Council*

Public Health Department,
Church Street,
Cannock, Staffs.

My Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit to you a report of the work performed by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1947.

NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH

Foul drains, water closets, cesspools, sinks, urinals ...	...	77
Insufficient water closets and drains ...	...	345
Accumulations of manure and other offensive matter	...	7
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	...	15
Dirty dwelling houses	...	20
Dwelling houses needing repair	...	408
Dwelling houses overcrowded	...	22
Number of nuisances and other matters reported during the year	...	733
Number of Notices served	...	705
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 93, P.H.A., 1936	...	134
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 66, P.H.A., 1936	...	21

PRINCIPAL STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

336	Water Closets put in order.
261	New Water Closet pans.
19	New Water Closet seats.
24	New Water Closet flushing cisterns.
25	Water Closet flushing cisterns repaired.
9	Choked Water Closets opened.
56	Choked drains opened.
108	yards of new drains on six premises.
15	Drains repaired.
5	New Pails provided for Pail Closets.
632	Dustbins substituted for worn out dustbins.
2	New gullies provided.
5	Drain inspection chambers rebuilt.
2	New drain inspection chambers constructed.
6	New drain inspection chamber covers provided.
2	Drains ventilated.
4	Drain ventilating shafts repaired.
8	New water cisterns provided.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

1.—THE NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

Inspection of Dwelling Houses :—

	(1) Housing inspections	...	...	...	73
	(2) District inspections	...	...	...	5,719
Inspection of	Bakehouses	...	...	...	81
„	„ Common Lodging House	...	...	...	28
„	„ Cowsheds	...	...	...	288
„	„ Dairies	...	...	...	240
„	„ Milk Shops	...	...	...	42
„	„ Milk Bars	...	...	...	36
„	„ Milk Floats	...	...	...	21
„	„ Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	12
„	„ Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	46
„	„ Shops	...	...	...	256
„	„ Meat Shops	...	...	...	720
„	„ Grocers Shops	...	...	...	186
„	„ Meat Distribution Centre	...	...	...	240
„	„ Markets	...	...	...	264
„	„ Factories	...	...	...	112
„	„ Knacker's Yard	...	...	...	88

„ „ School Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	56
„ „ Public Conveniences	...	...	84
„ „ Works for abatement of nuisances	...	...	3,192
„ „ Works for abatement of housing repairs	...	...	175
„ „ Ice Cream Premises	...	...	240
„ „ Complaints investigated	...	...	229
„ „ Water Courses	...	...	30
„ „ Tips	...	...	18
„ „ Living Vans	...	...	40
„ „ Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	8
„ „ Pithead Baths	...	...	12
„ „ Spoilbanks	...	...	60
„ „ Canal Boats—Wharves	...	...	11
„ „ Camping Grounds	...	...	22
„ „ Mortuaries	...	...	14
„ „ Making-up Rooms (Food)	...	...	264
„ „ Ministry of Food Depots	...	...	43
„ „ Canteens	...	...	21
„ „ Premises under Rats & Mice Destruction Act	...	...	704
„ „ Fishmongers Premises	...	...	111
„ „ Meat Stalls	...	...	260
„ „ Offices	...	...	51

2.—THE NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	705
Statutory, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	...	...	...	...	...	...	134
Statutory, Housing Act, 1936, Section 66	...	...	...	...	...	...	22

3.—RESULTS OF SERVICE

Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	699
Notices not complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	34

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

		End of 1946	End of 1947
Water Closets	...	10,905	11,048
Waste Water Closets	...	—	—
Dustbins	...	9,612	9,680
Privies	...	3	I
Privy Ashpits	...	I	I
Privy Pans	...	157	157
Cesspools	...	184	184

CESSPOOLS

The number of cesspools in the area is the same as last year, that is 184. These are situated on premises at which there is no sewer available. The Council has under consideration the question of extending the sewers in certain wards so as to enable the owners of the various properties to connect the drains to the sewers and dispense with the cesspools. This will be a great saving in expenditure to the Council and will be more sanitary from a public health point of view.

PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES

The Council carried out improvements and renovations to the public sanitary conveniences at Market Place, Cannock, Victoria Street, Hednesford, and Wimblebury Road, Heath Hayes. The work carried out was repairing floors, fixing new flushing cisterns and flush pipes, repairing and renewing woodwork of water closet doors, also painting all woodwork and ironwork.

New locks and cash boxes were fixed on all water closet doors, and these have been found to operate very well. Lady attendants were engaged to look after the Ladies' Section at Market Place, Cannock. These persons work on a rota system.

The remaining conveniences in the area, which are chiefly urinals, are under consideration with a view to repairs and renovations which require to be carried out. It is hoped that these will be dealt with at an early date. All conveniences are visited and washed down daily.

SCHOOL SANITARY CONVENIENCES

These premises are visited frequently and any defects or nuisances found are reported to the Divisional Education Officer of the Education Authority.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The sanitary accommodation in the area is well maintained. There is only one privy left, and this is situated at property where no sewer exists. There are pail closets and chemical closets also in areas where no sewer exists. I hope the Council will, in the near future, provide sewers in these particular areas, so that fresh water

closets can be provided and the whole drainage systems at the premises can be drained to the sewer. The Council provide and maintain dustbins. These are now better to obtain from the manufacturers. Certain occupiers of dwelling houses still misuse the dustbins by placing wet matter therein and burning refuse in the bins. This very soon causes the bins to deteriorate. Circulars are sent out with new bins advising the occupiers what to do as regards placing offensive matters in bins and burning matter that takes place in some bins.

HOUSING

10 houses were built by private enterprise.

46 houses were built by the local authority.

8 temporary bungalows were erected by the local authority.

4 permanent bungalows were erected by the local authority.

FITNESS OF HOUSES

Seventy-three houses were inspected; all were found to be damp, one dirty and five overcrowded.

The number of persons per house was 3.53, with 1.22 rooms per person, or 258 persons to 317 rooms (136 living rooms and 181 sleeping rooms).

OVERCROWDING

No. of cases on books at the end of year	...	...	...	...	...	69
No. of cases dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	71
No. of overcrowded cases abated :—						
From Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	2
From Private houses	...	...	...	...	...	10
No. of new cases reported to the Medical Officer of Health during 1947	...	...	...	...	...	22

HOUSES IMPROVED

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	176
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Houses re-spouted	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Houses repointed, roughcast or cemented	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Damp proof courses inserted	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	361
New ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

New quarry floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Quarry, brick and concrete floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
New wood floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Wood floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
New firegrates fitted or firegrates repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
New windows, and windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
New sashcords, catches, fasteners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
New doors fitted and doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Handrails fitted	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Dangerous stair treads renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Staircases lighted	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food stores ventilated and lighted	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New sinks and sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
New coppers and coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Burst pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	243
Yards paved	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	481
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	1443
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	219
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	453

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers

275

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—							
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :							
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act—							
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	171
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :							
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—							
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—							
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

UNFIT HOUSES

Number Demolished—

Individual Unfits	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Clearance Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Situation of Houses Demolished—

Littleworth Ward :

19 and 21 Littleworth Hill, Hedgesford	...	Voluntary
128 and 130 Church Hill, Hedgesford	...	Voluntary

RENT & MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS,
1920 TO 1939
SECTION 2 (2) 19 Act 1920

Twenty-eight applications were received from tenants under the above-mentioned Acts, and each case was considered in a report submitted. Twenty-four certificates were granted.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919
INFESTATION ORDER, 1943

During the year 1947 the following results were obtained by our Rodent Operator:—

Poison baits laid	...	...	...	...	...	496
Good poison takes	...	...	...	...	...	55
Small poison takes	...	...	...	...	...	249
Dead rats found	...	...	...	...	...	210
Premises dealt with by Cymag and Rockets	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rats killed	...	...	...	...	...	38

288 manholes were treated; 7 small takes and 11 good takes were found. 270 manholes were clear.

BLOCK SURVEYS

Twelve block surveys were carried out during the year, and in these surveys the following premises were dealt with:—

Dwelling houses	...	...	...	67
Business premises	...	...	...	35
Gas Works	...	...	...	1
Miners' hostel	...	...	...	1
Council premises	...	...	...	11

LIVING VANS AND TENTS

A survey was made during the year of all the living vans and tents within the area, and it was found that there were 13 vans and 5 tents. A report was submitted to the Public Health Committee giving full details of the conditions of the vans and tents, also the sanitary accommodation. Later in the year five vans and two tents were removed from the district and one van was not used as a dwelling.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Dec., 1947

Licenced Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	25
Visits to Meat Shops	...	...	...	720

TOTAL—UN SOUND FOOD

					Weight lbs.
Bovines—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1,351
Bovines—Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	48
Pigs—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1,262
Pigs—Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	65
Other Foods	...	...	...	...	3,230
Fish	...	...	...	...	648
Eggs (120)					
Milk (67 gallons)					
				Total	<hr/> 6,604
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	
	2	18	3	24	

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS

The number of slaughterhouses, butchers' shops and meat stalls in the area is as follows:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	25
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	47
Meat Stalls	...	...	...	9

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT SHOPS AND MEAT VANS

The meat supply for this area is obtained from the Government Slaughterhouse at Walsall and is sent to the Meat Distribution Centre at Market Hall Street, Cannock, in suitable meat vans, which are kept in a clean condition.

The meat received is of a mixed quality—some is of very good quality, other is of poor quality.

It has been necessary on certain occasions to condemn certain meat and offals. These are always returned to the Government Slaughterhouse at Walsall. I consider that an Abattoir should be provided in this area. This would save a lot of handling of meat that is transported from the Slaughterhouse to the Meat Distribution Centre, and would give the butchers better allocations of various offals which are very scarce at the present time. Furthermore, the meat would set better and look better when the cattle were slaughtered in the area. There is a most suitable site available for the erection of an abattoir, and I am hoping that the Council will give serious consideration to the question of erecting an abattoir and a

cold store. There are still 25 private licensed slaughterhouses—some of these are very old and should be closed, some are more recent, but the whole of the slaughterhouses should be closed, and I feel that the local butchers favour the erection of an abattoir than go back to the use of the old slaughterhouses.

The meat shops number 47. These are visited weekly and they are all found to be kept very clean. The making-up rooms call for inspection; these are used periodically because there is not always meat for making-up purposes. These premises are found to be kept very clean, also the various types of machines used for making up the various foods which are for human consumption. There are nine meat stalls in the Markets, which are visited each market day. These are kept in a clean condition also. The meat van is again on the roads, chiefly delivering meat from the butchers to the customers. These are inspected and no cause of complaint was found.

TABLE FROM CIRCULAR No. 1650

No records are kept in regard to this circular, because no slaughterhouses are used for the slaughter of animals intended for sale for human consumption.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Seven new licences were granted to persons employed in the meat trade, and 54 licences were renewed during the year for persons to stun animals intended for human consumption.

KNACKER'S YARD

The Knacker's Yard is in the Bridgtown Ward. The premises are used very extensively and improvements have been carried out, such as laying new concrete floor in the killing chamber and paving the main approach to the premises.

The occupiers keep the premises in a very clean condition, and no nuisance is permitted to exist on the premises.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE

These premises were closed during the year. The owner-occupier was not able to carry on the business owing to old age. At all times the premises, beds and bedclothes were found to be very clean and tidy.

Number of visits	28
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**PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE
CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS AND
UNDER REGULAR INSPECTION**

Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Purveyors of Milk from other districts selling milk in this area									29
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Meat Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Mortuaries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Knacker's Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90

CANAL BOATS

Only a small number of registered canal boats pass through this area carrying coal from the local collieries.

One boat was intercepted and on inspection it was found the captain was not carrying any registration papers or certificates. The owners of the boat were immediately notified as to this omission.

MOTOR AMBULANCES

During the year 933 cases of sickness or accidents were removed to hospital; the number of miles registered for these journeys was 21,429, or 22.9 miles per journey.

On 84 occasions both ambulances were out at the same time.

During the year the ambulances removed 34 cases for other authorities.

FISH FRIERS

There are 63 fish friers in this area. These premises were visited frequently, and they were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. Each shop has a modern or up-to-date stove.

DISINFESTATION

Number of Council houses found to be infested	...	...	1
Number of Council houses disinfested	...	...	1
Number of other houses found to be infested	...	...	11
Number of other houses disinfested	...	...	11

All these houses have been treated with an insecticidal fluid, and all bedding and soft furnishings from these houses were dealt with by means of steam disinfection. The whole of the work was carried out by the staff of the Public Health (Sanitary) Department.

In two cases it was found necessary to treat the furniture, furnishings, bedding, etc., of selected applicants before these persons moved into new Council houses. The furniture was disinfested with Hydrogen Cyanide Gas, and the bedding and soft furnishings were dealt with by means of steam disinfection. The houses from which the people were rehoused were dealt with by spraying with an insecticidal fluid.

STEAM DISINFECTOR

The steam disinfecter at the Council's depot was used for disinfecting 735 articles.

Number of days disinfecter in use	53
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WATER

The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company supply water to all dwellings, factories, etc., in the area, with the following exceptions :—

One house obtains water from a well.

Two houses are without internal water supply.

Thirteen houses obtain water from a nearby colliery.

During the year eleven samples of water were submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. Four of the eleven samples of water obtained were found to be unsatisfactory. One well water and one spring water were also found to be unsatisfactory.

The occupants of the premises where the water was found to be unfit for drinking purposes were advised to boil the water before use.

The work of providing a satisfactory water supply from the Statutory Undertakers is proceeding at certain properties, and it is hoped that before long the whole of the houses mentioned in this report, with the exception of one, will have a supply of water supplied by the Waterworks Company. The one house where water is obtained from a well is unfit for human habitation and will be dealt with under the Housing Act of 1936 at an early date.

A report is submitted herewith of a sample taken and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination to the Staffordshire County Council Laboratory.

					PARTS PER
					100,000
Chemical :—					
Total solid matter dried at 212° F	...	...	...	...	19.0
Free and saline ammonia	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid	...	...	...	...	0.0012
Nitric Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.16
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	3.0
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F	...	...	...	...	0.007
Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear
Injurious metallic contamination	...	...	...	...	Nil
pH value	...	...	...	...	7.8
Hardness before boiling	...	...	...	...	9.00°
Hardness after boiling	...	...	...	...	4.80°
Temporary hardness	...	...	...	...	4.20°
Bacteriological :—					
Count On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37° C	...	...	...	8 colonies per ml.	
On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20—22° C	...	...	...	10 colonies per ml.	
Coli aerogenes content (presumptive coli) after 48 hours' incubation at 37° C	...	...	...	Nil per 100 ml.	

RIVERS AND STREAMS

During the year periodical inspections were made at the various streams and watercourses in the area. No complaints were received as regards any unsatisfactory water.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1947

ICES AND ICE CREAM

There are three premises registered which manufacture ice-cream by the hot mix method, and seven premises registered which manufacture by the cold mix method; also there are fifty-two premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. In the latter places ice-cream is bought in cartons or wrapped blocks and stored in refrigerators.

During the year twenty-five samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. Particulars of these are as follows :—

Total number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	25
Total number taken from premises registered by the Urban District Council for manufacture and sale	...	...	...	...	...	19
Total number taken from premises registered by the Urban District Council for sale only	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total number of samples manufactured by the "Hot-Mix" method	...	...	...	...	...	7
Total number of samples manufactured by the "Cold-Mix" method	...	...	...	...	...	12
Total number of samples where the method of manufacture was not known (ice-cream manufactured outside the Urban District)	...	...	...	...	...	6

The samples fell into the following provisional grades:—

Samples

Grade one	...	...	...	...	4
Grade two	...	...	...	...	7
Grade three	...	...	...	...	5
Grade four	...	...	...	...	9

Of the six samples taken where the ice-cream was manufactured outside the district, four fell into grade four, one into grade three, and one into grade two.

One sample was taken of "Frozen Fruities." No prohibited colour was present, and it was not practicable to do a Methylene Blue test due to the dye being present in the specimen.

All premises where ice-cream is manufactured and sold are visited very frequently and all utensils and premises are carefully inspected; any defects or other matters which require attention are pointed out to the person responsible.

Ice-cream vendors' vehicles are looked out for and inspected—several of these come into this area from other areas. I consider that all ice-cream sold from vehicles should be sold in cartons or be pre-wrapped. It is most important that extreme care should be taken to prevent dust or dirt coming into contact with the ice-cream or the biscuits which are used. Every vendor should have clean water in a suitable receptacle for washing the utensils which he carries for making up wafers, and he should, at all times, have a clean towel. The persons making and selling ice-cream should, at all times, wear clean white overalls.

Ice-cream has become a food that is consumed by a large number of people, and it is of the utmost importance that this should be sold to the public in a clean and wholesome condition, also that it should be manufactured under ideal conditions.

MILK

There are twenty-four registered milk producers on the register; these are set out in the following table:—

Wholesalers	...	...	...	...	10
Wholesalers and Retailers	...	...	...	...	7
Retailers	...	...	...	...	7

The number of milking cows kept is 355, or an average of 15 cows per farm. These 24 milk producers consist of 12 producers with Accredited licences and 12 producers of ordinary raw milk. There are 61 dairies and milk shops in this area, also 29 retail producers of milk who deliver milk in this area but whose premises are outside this area.

During the year the number of samples of milk taken and submitted for bacteriological examination is as follows:—

Producers in the area	...	...	...	110
Retailers in the area	...	...	...	79
Retailers from outside the area	...	...	...	7

The results of the examination of these samples are as follows:—

		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Producers in the area	...	62	48
Retailers in the area	...	63	16
Retailers from outside the area	...	3	4

Following reports on unsatisfactory samples, visits are made to the producers in our own area during the hours of milking, which is usually during the early hours of the day or late afternoon. This is done to observe the methods used in the production and the handling of the milk; also to ascertain the condition of the cow-sheds and the cows before milking takes place.

The samples taken at the time of milking are usually: one sample from the cow, one from the milking pail, one from the cooler and one direct from the churn. This has been the means, in many cases, of us finding out where milk has become unsatisfactory. When this has been found, it is pointed out to the farmer and he is asked to co-operate and make improvements in his methods.

The figure of 48 unsatisfactory samples given above gives rather a misleading impression. This figure is high due to the fact that it contained a large number of "split" samples taken as outlined above.

Ten samples of churn washings were taken where samples of milk had proved to be unsatisfactory. This was probably due to insufficient sterilisation.

Four cowkeepers have been removed from the register, due to them giving up the trade.

The milk producers in the area are given every encouragement and help on the methods and ways to be used in the production of clean milk.

In all cases where milk is found to be unsatisfactory and this milk is produced outside our own area, a letter and a copy of the report is sent to the Sanitary Inspector in whose district the milk was produced.

Of the 16 unsatisfactory samples of milk taken from retailers, the milk from 14 samples was produced outside the area.

The inspection of cowsheds and dairies has been well maintained; the premises, generally, have been found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936

The following licences have been granted to sell the under-mentioned designated milks :—

Tuberculin tested	...	...	...	21
Accredited	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised	...	...	...	17

SCHOOL MILK SUPPLY

The milk supplied to the schools in this area is known as pasteurised milk, and is obtained from a firm of milk contractors whose dairy is outside this area.

Twenty-four samples of milk were taken during the year, in course of delivery, and same were submitted for bacteriological examination on the same morning as they were taken. Six of these samples were found to be unsatisfactory. These six samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test, but all the samples passed the Phosphatase Test.

A copy of the Bacteriologist's report is sent in each case to the contractors and to the licensing authority who granted the principal licence.

SHOPS ACTS, 1919 TO 1938

The duties under these Acts are carried out frequently. The closing of shops at the proper closing hours is still maintained. Sunday trading is practically at a standstill except for the sale of ice-cream and sweets.

The sanitary accommodation and washing facilities are well maintained, and in places where food is sold notices are exhibited stressing the point of "Wash your hands"—this is a most important matter in all places where food is sold, prepared or stored.

OFFICES

Forty-five offices have been inspected. The premises are well lighted and ventilated; adequate sanitary accommodation and washing facilities were found in each case.

Several of the offices are comparatively new buildings erected with factorics; others are bank buildings.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The factories in the area are visited periodically; there are now 90 factories on the register.

The sanitary accommodation and washing facilities are inspected, and these have been found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. Several of the factories are new buildings, and the sanitary accommodation and washing facilities are most up-to-date.

1.—INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES MADE FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

PREMISES	NUMBER ON REGISTER	NUMBER OF		
		INSPECTIONS	WRITTEN NOTICES	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	24	37	9	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies:				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	66	75	14	Nil
(b) Others	—	—	—	Nil
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	Nil
Total	90	112	23	Nil

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred			
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness ..	3	3	...	...	Nil
Overcrowding ..	...	...	...	...	Nil
Unreasonable temperature ..	..	...	...	...	Nil
Inadequate ventilation ..	1	1	...	...	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	..	...	...	...	Nil
Sanitary conveniences:						
(a) insufficient ..	2	2	...	...	Nil
(b) unsuitable or defective ..	17	17	...	4	Nil	
(c) not separate for sexes ..	..	...	...	...	Nil
Other offences (not including offences relating to homework) ..	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total ..	23	23	...	4	Nil	

OUTWORKERS

No list of outworkers was received during the year.

BAKEHOUSES

Visits have been made to these premises, and the following matters were reported upon and dealt with:—

Walls and ceilings of bakehouses cleansed	...	21
Walls and ceilings of rest rooms cleansed	...	3
Bakehouses enlarged	...	2
New ovens provided	...	2
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	2
Floors cleansed	...	1
Doors cleansed	...	2

CAMPING SITES

One camping site at Hayfield Hill, Cannock Wood, was closed during the year; the structures and sanitary conveniences were all removed from the site.

There is still a camp at Beaudesert Park, Cannock Wood. This is frequently inspected and at all times the premises have been found satisfactory. The water supply is from the Statutory Undertakers; the sanitation consists of fresh water closets and urinals which drain to a septic tank which is well away from the camp site.

SPOILBANKS

The spoilbanks at each colliery in the area call for constant attention. The majority of them are of the conical type—the flat spoilbanks are very seldom used.

There is still one spoilbank which is causing nuisance at certain times, and the owners are endeavouring to overcome the nuisance, but it is a question of getting the necessary pump for pumping water from the reservoir to the pipes which are already placed on the surface of the spoilbank.

In one case the constant spraying of water on to the surface of the spoilbank by sprinklers has proved a success, and the spoilbank is now kept under control. It is pleasing to note that the atmosphere in this particular area is much fresher than formerly when fumes and smoke were polluting the air.

I find that all the managers at the various collieries are willing to carry out work to abate the nuisances which arise from these spoilbanks.

I am still of the opinion that it is a great pity that the spoilbanks cannot be dispensed with. The countryside is spoilt by these huge deposits of waste material.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Engineer and Surveyor has kindly furnished the following particulars respecting the work of public cleansing carried out in the area.

The following refuse tips are owned by the Council, and their estimated life at the end of 1947 is as follows:—

Littleworth Clayhole.—Considerable space available for controlled tipping for some years.

Hednesford Park.—Completed and handed over to the Parks Dept. for final treatment.

Heath Hayes.—Used exclusively for the immediate surrounding area, and as such will last until the end of 1948.

Princess Street.—Very little used during the year, but further tipping over a certain area will be carried out upon the acquisition of adjoining land.

Hawkes Green.—Not used during the year, but further tipping and subsequent levelling may take place to adjust levels after anticipated mining subsidence.

Old Fallow Road (disused gravel pit).—Extensive controlled tipping has taken place and will last at least 18 months.

Complete mechanisation of the transport of the Department for refuse collection was achieved during 1947, and the following vehicles are engaged on the work :—

No. 3	...	...	...	7 cu. yds. vehicles
No. 1	...	...	...	10 cu. yds. vehicle

In order to maintain a weekly collection of refuse throughout the whole area and to cope with additional housing development, a further 7 cu. yd. capacity vehicle is to be added to the fleet.

The 750 gallons. capacity gully cesspool emptier has been principally engaged on the emptying of cesspools in the Cannock Wood and Pye Green areas, necessitating the emptying of street gullies by manual labour as heretofore.

Until such time that the number of cesspools can be reduced by sewer provision, there seems little possibility of street gully cleansing being executed mechanically, and consideration of the purchase of a further machine specifically for use in the cleaning of street gullies in a more hygienic manner than at present may need to be considered.

CONCLUSION

It gives me great pleasure to report on the work carried out during the year by my department.

The work has increased considerably; inspection of food and food premises call for careful supervision; the work on house repairs is well maintained in spite of certain difficulties in obtaining materials. The inspection of factories has increased, due to the erection of new premises by outside firms; in the factories the sanitary accommodation is of a modern type and is well maintained.

I have pleasure in expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and to all Members of the Council who are not Members of the Public Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, Chief Officials and the staff of the Public Health Department who have readily given their support and help to me during the past year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

FRED TURNER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector

PRAILL, PRINTER, CANNOCK